(d) With a view to revive IISCO and ensure its future viability, Government had allowed SAIL to convert IISCO into a joint venture. Accordingly, SAIL had invited suitable parties to express their interest in such a joint venture. Three companies were shortlisted. However, offers of two of them were not acceptable to SAIL, while offer of one company is being currently examined. Due to delay in response for disinvestment, SAIL has not been able to submit any revival plan for the company, as yet.

Steel Production by PSUs

† 3002. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Private Sector Undertakings are manufacturing steel;

(b) if so, the numbers and names of such Private Sector Undertakings;

(c) the average annual production of steel by these Undertakings; and

(d) the percentage of steel production in comparison to the total production capacity of these Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a)Yes, sir.

(b) There are reportedly 691 working steel plants in the private sector in the country. The major steel plants in the Private Sector are—TISCO, Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Ltd., Essar Steel Ltd., Ispat Industries Ltd. & Lloyds Steel Industries Ltd.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Setting up of the Steel Plants in Orissa and Chhattisgarh

3003. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether govt, have a proposal to set up steel plants in Orissa and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the locations thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the progress of the steel plants which are under construction in these states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) and (b) No, sir.

(c) No major steel plant in the state of Chhattisgarh is under construction. The progress status of steel plants under construction in the state of Orissa is given below:

S.No.	Plants	Progress Status
1.	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.	The construction of steel plant of M/s. Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., is in progress. Total refurbishing of Blast Furnace structurals and 96% of civil works and Structural erections have been completed. 93% of lying refractories and 80% of erection of equipments of phase-I.
2.	Mideast Integrated Steel Ltd.	The first phase of the steel project comprising of pig ' iron plant has partly been commissioned. However, due to funds constraints, the construction of the plant has been stopped.

Autonomous body for Recycling of Scrap Steel

3004. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new autonomous body to promote recycling of scrap steel, particularly those generated from ship breaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;